



ISSUE 134

Rabiul Awwal 1438 | December 2017

ISLAMIC FOCUS

INSIGHT INTO FIQH
Travel differences

**BOETA
ARMIEN**

Senior citizen interview

HAJJ
MY PERSONAL
EXPERIENCE



FROM THE EDITOR

AHLAN WASAHLAN

I'm chuffed to present this edition to you, the reader.

I looked for the local angle, and unearthed such gems as Boeta Armien, the sprightly gentleman who still enjoys a game of tennis at the age of 87!

One of the most challenging ways of doing Hifz of the Quran is to do it while attending school. We launched a competition to reward those who learnt the most new work and happened to find a man who started Hifz a little late in life, at 60 to be precise, and has now done 13 juz.

Girls Hifz is also a growing segment in the province and we aim to encourage that as well. Beautiful prizes for the competition winners in the girls and boys segment.

Hajj is always an experience you talk about many years on. This time we asked the Hujjaj of the Eastern Cape to tell us about their trip. Read the first hand account

and feel the excitement.

Finally, it's always humbling to realise the impact that our publications have. Mubeen Moosa from East London sent us a letter after reading the last issue. Here's some of what he said:

"Your publication, dated Dhul Hijjah 1438 / September 2017 opened my mind to so many ideas and new understandings of where Islam is currently, where we should be and how every individual can make a difference.

Publications like Islamic Focus are very important in highlighting the everyday common struggles normal Muslim men and women face as well as the progress we are making as an Ummah."

Drop me a line, and we could publish your letter in the next edition: info@islamicfocus.co.za

Muhammad Badsha
(Moulana)



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CREDITS

Editor

MI Muhammad Badsha

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HIFZ COMPETITION

Islamic Focus held a Hifz competition for school going boys and girls in the Eastern Cape. Madressas were encouraged to submit the amount of new work (sabak) that students had given during the course of 2017.

A stringent process of verification was followed to ensure that submissions were correct.

The reason for the choice of the two categories: boys and girls school going Hifz was to promote what is quite probably the most taxing form of Hifz study. Students need to be on the top of their game in two very different study environments which equates to lots of dedication and effort.

Girls Hifz is growing category of Hifz study in the Eastern Cape. It is still relatively in its formative stages and Islamic Focus wished to provide encouragement for those in this field and to spark interest in others.

Eastcape Manufacturers enthusiastically came on board to provide fantastic prizes for the top three in each category. A presentation of the prizes will take place soon.



BOYS

- ① Ismaeel Limbada, 13 years old. Attends Darul Uloom Abu Bakr and grade 8 in Al Azhar school. His teacher is Moulana M Ali Desai. Completed 168 pages (6 juz).
- ② 2nd: Aarif Gangat, 16 years old. Attends Nasruddin Islamic School for both Hifz and school (grade 10). His teacher is Moulana Luqmaan Adams. Completed 89 pages (3 juz).
- ③ 3rd: Muaawiya Badsha, 13 years old. Attends Madressa Mansoor and grade 7 in AL Azhar school. His teacher is Hafiz Aarif Moosagie. Completed 87 pages (3 juz).

GIRLS

- ① Attiyah Moosagie, 15 years old. Attends Madrasah Ansarul Islam and grade 9 in Collegiate Girls High. Her teacher is Muallima S Ahmed. Completed 44 pages (1 and half juz).
- ② Humairah Ebrahim, 14 years old. Attends Madrasah Ansarul Islam and grade 8 in Nasruddin High. Her teacher is Muallima S Ahmed. Completed 36 pages (1 juz).
- ③ Zahraa Laher, 13 years old. Attends Madrasah Ansarul Islam and grade 7 in Nasruddin High. Her teacher is Muallima S Ahmed. Completed 21 pages (just under 1 juz).

Well done to all who participated.

Boys Prize presentation with Qirat, Guest advices by Moulana Luqmaan Adams, after Maghrib on Tue, 5 December 2017 Masjid Mansoor. Males only

Girls Prize presentation after Maghrib on Tue, 23 January 2018 at Madressa Mansoor. Females only

HIFZ

AT ADVANCED AGE



Hifz (memorisation) of the Holy Quran is possible at any age. Here is a piece written by a 61 year old man who has embarked on this noble journey.

WHO AM I?

I am a 61 year old married man with three grown up children, and who works full time.

SO WHAT?

I decided in January 2016, at age 60 to attempt Hifz-ul-Qur'an. Alhamdulillah, I have now progressed to my 13th Juz.

WHY?

I just cannot get over the fact that when you are reciting any portion of the Quran from memory, the words that are flowing from your mouth is the actual speech of Allah, and you are conveying His message to those listening to you, and He is honouring you as He

did Rasullullah ﷺ, and that He is addressing you personally.

That is so special, and no one from any other religion can get this special favour! That is just awesome!

SO WHO OR WHAT INSPIRED ME?

When I listen to the young Huffaaz reciting, I wish I could be their age to become a Haafiz. Well I certainly can't become young again, but I could be a haafiz!

HOW DO I DO IT?

I wake up around 4.30am, learn my sabak (new lesson), recite this and dhor (revision) to my teacher,

and he sets new sabak, which I learn for about 1 and half hours after he leaves, and do dhor in the evenings.

But I cannot memorise without understanding the meaning of each word and ayat, so I read the English translation to help me memorise.

I'M SO OLD, SO WHAT DO I HOPE TO ACHIEVE?

It doesn't matter how young or old you are, I feel this is the biggest deal of your life because:

- If you make Allah your friend, nothing or no one else matters. And how do you make friends? If you love someone you do whatever it takes to please them. Would Allah not be pleased that you keep His Words in your heart and teach others?
- If you fill your heart with His Words, there is no room for any other evil words or thoughts, because you never want break

- the friendship!
- You are always remembering Allah. If you're not reciting, then you know Allah is aware that His words are inside your heart.
- If you teach someone any little of the Quran that you learnt, you also get the reward of the one whom you taught.
- When you leave this world, you want the Quran to accompany you in the grave, and stand

guard and protect you from the punishment of the grave. On Judgement Day, you want the Quran that you learnt to earn you the Shade of Allah's Throne.

- Imagine you could ask Allah to save many of your loved one from Hell-Fire through your Hifz.
- Imagine that you could be in the Best place in Paradise

FINALLY

There are so many more benefits that I cannot even cover, but feel there is no better deal that anyone could ever get in this world that

would benefit you here and in the Hereafter.

I hope this inspires you to make a little sacrifice for eternal reward

and please always remember in your duas even if you don't know who I am!

DOGS & SHEEP

With the abundance of evil around us it's easy to get disillusioned and lose heart. When one hears about the increase in crime, the high divorce rate, the flood of drugs, the rampant corruption, the senseless slaughter, then the thought might come to mind:

What hope is there for the good people of this world? Would they be wiped out soon, leaving only evil?

Someone asked a pious man these questions. The pious man said, 'Look at dogs and sheep. Dogs are generally considered to be dirty and vicious. They give birth to litters of five or six pups, whereas sheep, which are considered docile and humble, give birth to one or two lambs at a time.

People slaughter sheep in their hundreds for meat while relatively few dogs are deliberately killed. Yet, with all this, one finds flocks of sheep, sometimes hundreds, grazing about in various parts of the world. The same cannot be said of dogs who roam in small numbers.

The sheep represent the good people in this world. No matter how much they are attacked, they always prevail and in fact continue growing stronger. While dogs represent the evil ones who, despite all the resources at their fingertips, cannot overcome the good.'

Do not lose heart when you hear of atrocities being perpetrated worldwide. No amount of effort to stifle and wipe out Islam and the Muslims will ever succeed. Many a small, ill-equipped group treading the path of truth and goodness has overcome well-resourced groups of evil-doers intent on wiping them out.

INSPIRATION

Motivational stories to give us the inspiration we might need



BLACK DOT

A small town chamber of commerce invited a speaker to address its annual dinner. The community's economy was bad, people were discouraged, and they wanted this motivational speaker to give them a boost.

During his presentation, the speaker took a large piece of white paper and made a small black dot at the centre with a marking pen. Then he held the paper up before the group and asked them what they saw.

One person quickly replied, "I see a black dot. "Okay, what else do you see?" Others joined in agreement: "A black dot." "Don't you see anything besides the dot?" he asked. A resounding "No" came from the audience.

"What about the sheet of paper?" asked the speaker. "I am sure you have all seen it", he said, "But you have chosen to overlook it."

"In life, we also tend to overlook and take for granted many wonderful things that we have or happen around us and focus our attention and energy on small, dot-like failures and disappointments. The so called 'problems' that we have are usually like the black dot on the paper. They are small and insignificant if we can widen our horizon and look at the whole picture."

Let's not focus our attention and energy on dot-like problems.

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(Mustadrak Hakim)



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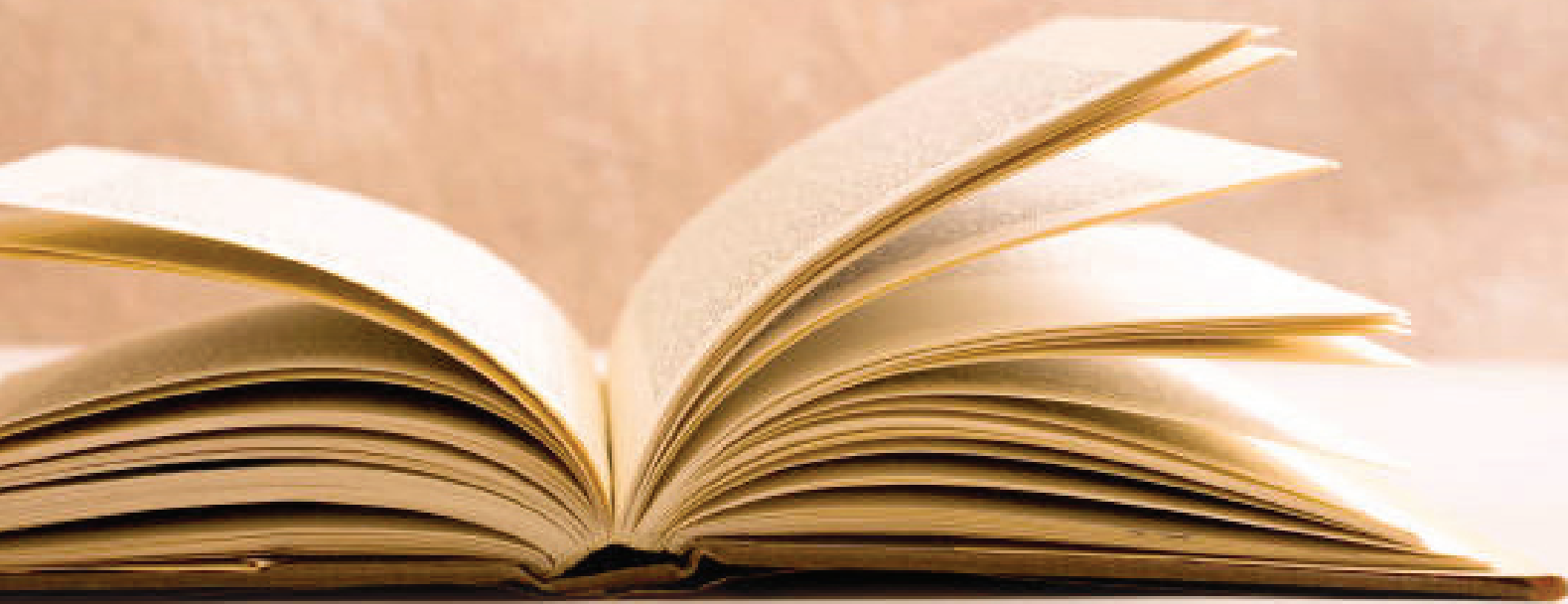
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HONOUR OF A MUSLIM

FILL YOUR BOOK

A person came to Khalid bin Waleed radhiallahu anhu and said: "So and so was speaking ill of you."

Khalid bin Waleed radhiallahu anhu responded: "That is his book of records. So let him fill it with whatever he wishes."

A person said to Wahb ibn Munabbih: "So and so speaks ill of you!"

Wahb rahimahullah asked in response: "Did the devil not manage to find a messenger besides you?"

A man came to Ali ibn Al-Husayn

radhiallahu anhu and exclaimed: "Verily so and so has harmed you. And he has defamed you."

Hadhrat Ali ibn Al-Husayn radhiallahu anhu responded thus: "If what he says about me is true, may Allah forgive me. And if what he says about me is untrue, may Allah forgive him."

It was once said to a man, "So and so has spoken ill of you."

So the man responded saying: "He had shot an arrow at me, but it had missed me. Why did you have to pick it up and pierce my heart with it?"

***Did the devil
not manage
to find a
messenger
besides you?***

A man carried a tale to a pious person.

The pious person said to the man: "You have exposed me to three transgressions. (1) You have created a rift between my brother and I, and (2) you have occupied my otherwise clean heart and (3) you have damaged your reputation with me."

A man came up to Imaam Shafi'ee rahimahullah and said: "So and so speaks ill of you."

Imaam Shafi'ee rahimahullah responded: "If you speak the truth then you are a tale-carrier. If you speak a lie, then you are an open sinner. Embarrassed, the man turned and went off."

CHICKEN FEATHERS

A man repeated gossip about a neighbour. Within a few days

"If you speak the truth then you are a tale-carrier. If you speak a lie, then you are an open sinner" -Imam Shafi'ee RA

the whole community knew the story. The person it concerned was deeply hurt. The man responsible for spreading the rumour learned that it was untrue.

He was sad and went to a wise man to find out how to repair the damage. "Buy a chicken and kill it. On your way home pluck its feathers and drop them one by one along the road," he said. Although surprised by this advice, the man did as he was told.

The next day the wise man said, "Bring all those feathers to me." The man followed the same road but the wind had blown all away. After searching for hours, he got only three.

"You see," said the sage, "It's easy to drop them but impossible to get back. So it is with gossip. It doesn't take much to spread a rumour, but once done you can never completely undo the wrong."

SANCTITY OF HONOUR

1 TRUE MAN. Let not the melodious humming of a man impress you; instead, one who fulfils trust and refrains from defaming the honour of people; he is a true man. (Umar radhiallahu anhu, narrated by Imam Bayhaqi)

2 INTERCESSION. May Allah have mercy on one who guards his tongue from hurting the honour of people; My intercession is not permitted for one who condemns and insults (people). (Daylami)

3 MISTAKES WIPED OUT.

He who guards his tongue from (attacking) the honour of Muslims, Allah shall cancel out his mistakes on the Day of Judgement. (Daylami)

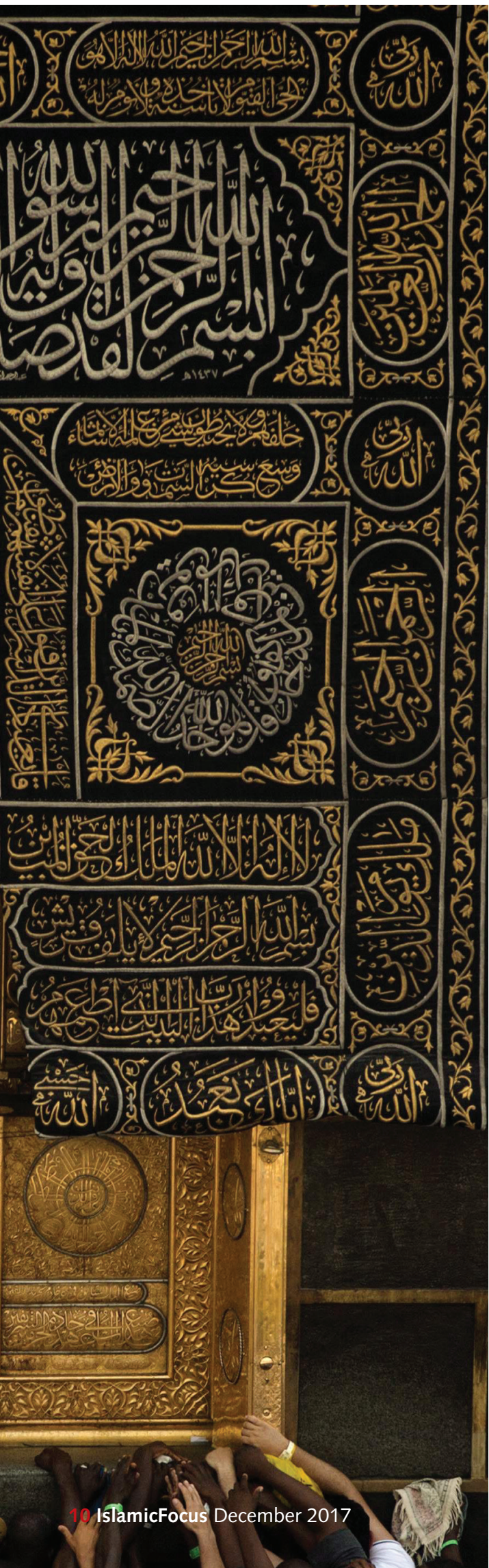
4 HELPING THE DEVIL. Umar radhiallahu anhu said: 'If you see one of you has slipped, correct him, pray for him and do not help the devil against him (by insulting him that he goes deeper in sin, etc).'

5 DEFENDING HONOUR. 'The Muslim who forsakes a fellow Muslim (and does not come to his assistance) at a time when his

honour is at stake, will be denied the help of Allah when he is greatly in need of it, whereas the Muslim who stands by a fellow Muslim at a time when his honour is at stake, Allah will grant him His assistance when he will need it most.'

6 HIDING FAULTS. 'Every Muslim is the brother of a Muslim, he should neither harm him, nor should he leave him alone when others treat him unjustly ... whoever will hide the faults of a fellow Muslim, Allah will keep his sins secret on the Day of Account.'

The Prophet ﷺ addressed the noble Kabah and said: "The sanctity of a believer is greater in the sight of Allah than you." (Bayhaqi)



Our HAJJ

1438 / 2017

A personal experience of Hajj 2017

Our journey started on the 29th July 2017 as we left our 3 daughters and loved ones behind. From the get go, we knew what our objective was and tried to maintain that focus as we set off to Jeddah.

Entering Masjid Nabawi in Madinah Munawwarah for the first time whilst I'm hearing the echo of the athaan, going to make salaams to our Nabi ﷺ and his companions and getting to spend time in the Rawdahtul Jannah, was so exciting and unbelievable at the same time. We were mesmerized by the architecture of the masjid and the serenity in the atmosphere! Preparing to go greet Nabi ﷺ every time brings about so much excitement! Everything about Madinah is peaceful and calm. Some of the other highlights were our ziyaarats to Mount Uhud, Badr, Bir Rawha and the many other older masajid, each place with their own unique rich history and importance in Islam. While visiting we would be reminded about the incidents that occurred there and it would be as if

we could picture the scenes playing out.

The time had come now for us to don our Ihraam, make our intention for Umrah and then proceed to Makkah. A sense of sadness prevailed leaving this holy city, while a sense of excitement ignited to see the Kabah. The talbiyah echoed in the bus as we journeyed to Makkah, which created an unexplainable buildup of excitement!

We arrived in Makkah all anxious and excited, and proceeded to the Haram. We entered the Haram with our gazes all lowered making our way down the stairs till we eventually were on the white marbled mataaf. Just like small children waiting for a prize, we stood for a moment before raising our gaze. Uncontrollable tears of sheer amazement and gratitude overcame us who were seeing the Kaabah for the very first time. What a beautiful, remarkable, humbling experience! We explored this holy Masjid using different entrances and exits and viewing the newly built section as well.

Every time we entered the Haram, we were captured by the beauty of the Kabah.

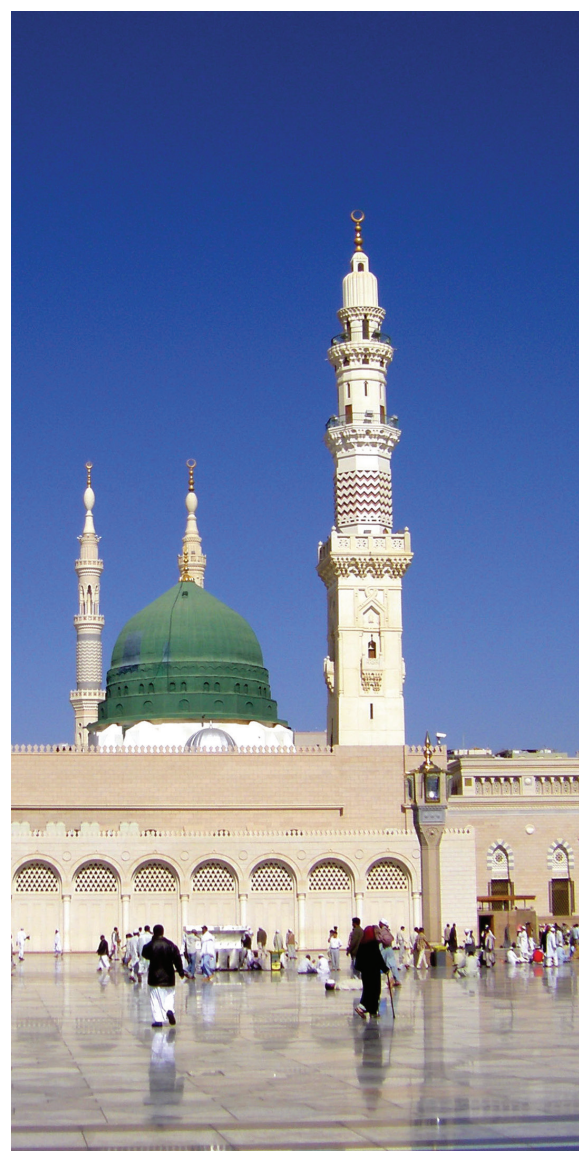
After 15 days we departed for Aziziyah, a suburb further away from the Haram. We spent 6 days here preparing for the days of Hajj. Visiting historical sites, with the realization that Nabi Muhammad ﷺ and his companions ﷺ also stood and walked at the very same place is amazing. We climbed Jabal Rahma barefooted, because of the smooth surfaced rocks. Whilst others couldn't believe us, we remembered our younger days at "Schoenies" climbing over the rocks when we would go camping. We also managed to climb Jabal Noor, with a little more effort but with stunning views all the way up and down.

All this excitement came to an end and the nerves kicked in as we prepared to don Ihraam again for the days of Hajj. The moment had arrived, this is what we were preparing for all this time. We left for Mina with the labbaik being heard from all. The day of Arafat arrived and we were placed in white tents with green trees hanging over a pathway. The time of wuqoof came in, duas were made and cries were heard while everyone was pleading and begging from Allah. After sunset we waited sometime before moving to Muzdalifah where we collected our pebbles and slept under the beautiful star filled night sky on our musallas using our shoes as pillows. We woke to a different atmosphere to what we are used to, with it being Eid ul Adha, the sole focus now being the pelting of the big Jamaraat. The Jamaraat area had strong army presence which provided a very controlled atmosphere. After all the talk we had heard about the tunnels to Makkah, we decided when going to make

our Tawaaful Ifaada to walk that route and experience this for ourselves. The 5-6km walk was pleasant and manageable with quite a lot of shade provided along the route. We performed our tawaaf and Sa'ee with much sabr and dedication in the midst of a very full Haram. We pelted for the next 3 days using different walking routes to and from the jamaarats. What a sense of satisfaction and gratitude having fulfilled the duties of hajj and a command of Allah. The heat makes tasks challenging, so eating well and staying hydrated was a priority for us throughout the entire trip. Alhamdulillah, we managed easily with the help of Allah and a lot of sabr (patience), sabr, sabr and more sabr. On the 13th Thul Hlaja at about asr time, we took a bus to the Haram to perform our Tawaaful Widaa. The first and last sight of the Kabah, are moments a person can't forget. The same action, yet two completely different emotions and experiences. Gazing at the Kabah whilst walking out of the Haram brings tears to the eyes, sadness and longing to the heart, with hopes that Allah one day brings us back. The evening came and we departed from our family of Hajj friends with echoes of 'yaa salaam yaa hujaaj' being sung by all those remaining behind.

Truly an amazing journey of humility, patience, sacrifice and gratitude.

Ameen and Shakiera Hendricks



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INSIGHT INTO FIQH

Differences between the Shafi and Hanafi Mathab in Travel

Port Elizabeth happens to have a healthy fusion between followers of the Shafi and Hanafi Fiqh. Many a home will have a mix of members following the two schools of thought within Islamic jurisprudence.

In fact, most if not all the Madressas in the city teach both the Fiqhs to accommodate for the students of the two Mathabs who attend. Many a Masjid shares Imams and Muazzins of both the Mathabs. This results in the Bismillah and Aameen being said loud of soft,

the raising of the hands and many other aspects.

In view of this, we bring you a simplified version of the main differences between the Shafi and Hanafi Mathabs with regards to travel. This is only intended as a guide and detailed answers should be sought from the respective Ulama.

Some differences in the rules of travel between Shafi and Hanafi:

1 Distance

Shafi: One needs to intend undertaking a journey of 80km or more.

Hanafi: One needs to intend undertaking a journey of 77km or more.

shorten a four rakaat Fardh salaah or read in full but it is better to make Qasr (shorten).

Hanafi: A musafir has no option to read a four rakaat Fardh salaah in full, and has to compulsorily shorten it.

2 Period

Shafi: If a person intends to stay at his destination for four days or more, excluding the day of arrival and the day of departure, he will not be a musafir (traveller in terms of Islamic rules) there.

Hanafi: If a person intends to stay his destination 15 days or more, he will not be a musafir there.

5 Ladies Travel

Shafi: Ladies can travel on a Fardh Hajj without a male mahram as long as they are two or more reliable women.

Hanafi: Ladies cannot travel without a mahram for any journey more than 77km.

3 Joining Prayers

Shafi: A musafir can combine Zuhr and Asr or Maghrib and Esha in either of the times.

Hanafi: A musafir cannot combine two Fardh Salaah in one time except during Hajj for Zuhr and Asr at Arafaat in Zuhr time; and Maghrib and Esha at Muzdalifah in Esha time.

6 Intention

Shafi: Any journey undertaken for a sinful purpose does not qualify one to be a musafir.

Hanafi: Any journey over 77km qualifies one as a musafir no matter what the intention is.

4 Shortening Prayers

Shafi: A musafir has the option to

7 Indefinite Period

Shafi: A musafir who does not know whether he will stay for more than four days can remain a musafir upto 18 days.

Hanafi: A musafir who does not know whether he will stay for more than 15 days can remain a musafir indefinitely.

NOTE

These rules are collected from the mainstream views of the Muftis of the two Mathabs. They are listed to give an appreciation of the differences and to remove any misconceptions.

They can also serve as a handy guide for teachers who need to teach students of a Mathab different from their own, or for Imams whose congregations are different from their own.

INSPIRATION

Motivational story to give us the inspiration we might need

DONKEY IN A WELL

Sometimes when you're down and everybody's picking on you: One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do.

Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway. He invited all his neighbours to come and help him. They all grabbed a spade and began to shovel dirt into the well.

At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then he quieted down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the

donkey would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer's neighbours continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

Moral: Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a steppingstone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up. There's light at the end of every tunnel.



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Boeta Moegammad Armien Bardien

Happy go lucky outlook on life, his incredible energy and his warm smile

It was my pleasure to interview a man who embodies much of the qualities of the earlier generations who contributed to the preservation of Islam in the Eastern Cape and specifically Port Elizabeth.

Affectionately known as Boeta Armien, this sprightly man of 87 still enjoys his games of tennis giving a tough time to opponents half his age. Boeta Armien was born in 1929 in Lea Place close to South End in Port Elizabeth. He has four children; 3 sons and a daughter and was the eldest of 5 children.

The tough times of a bygone era meant that he left his structured schooling at an early age and found work at the Bagshaw Shoe Factory. He ended up giving over half a century of service at Bagshaw, a testament to the quality of consistency and dedication that is well worth noting.

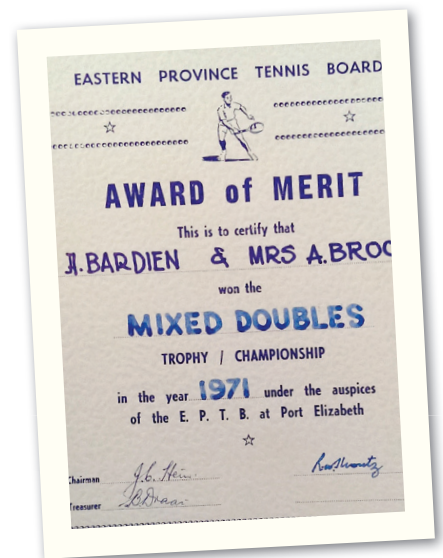
Boeta Armien embarked on a lifetime of service to the less fortunate members of society with the Eastern Cape Islamic Congress in 1975. His portfolio was convener of what was possibly the first organized Baitul Maal (Department of Public Funds). This was the forerunner of the South African National Zakah Fund, into which the Baitul Maal was incorporated to constitute SANZAF as a national body. Boeta Armien has served the community in the field of social

welfare for over 40 years. This is made all the more remarkable for the fact that he did it together with holding a full time job.

The balanced lifestyle and wonderful health that Boeta Armien enjoys is due in large part to his passion for tennis. He won well over 18 tennis championships from the early fifties that were open for non whites under the Apartheid system, and was the men's singles champion in the Eastern Cape every year from 1953-1970.

A well-known figure in the field of community work, Boeta Armien served in the ECIC's Baitul Maal, then on SANZAF. He was also synonymous with the Muslim Movement Hall, serving many years as the hall's manager on behalf of ECIC.

His love for Islam is one of the pillars of his success. He had the opportunity of making the Hajj to Makkah Mukarramah and Madinah Munawwarah thrice and visited Palestine once. He has also made a few trips to visit his son who stays in Australia. He started Mosque activities as a caller to prayer (Muazzin) at Masjid Abraar (Rudolph Street) in South End. He is very active in the Batcha Jamaats, groups of men who get together weekly to recite Quran. This form of devotion to the Quran kept the ability to recite Quran preserved especially among the Malay



community in Port Elizabeth.

He was privileged to serve at the ECIC with a man who is legendary for his role in revitalizing Islam in Port Elizabeth, Sheikh Jamiel Jardien rahimahullah. Prior to the setting up of offices for welfare, Boeta Armien's house would serve as the base for these activities. People would be waiting for him, and he would attend to them first on arriving from work.

Boeta Armien's genealogical roots bear testimony to the remarkable resilience of the Muslims of the Cape; his great grandmother Gasiena Bardien was bought out of slavery by her brother as noted in Achmat David's book, *The Afrikaans of the Cape Muslims*.

One of the enduring characteristics of Boeta Armien is to strive in keeping the family ties firm. To this end he makes sure that family functions are an important part of his social life. Never a man to make anyone feel bad, he accepts any social invitation or engagement big or small in the interests of making people's hearts happy.

His happy go lucky outlook on life, his incredible energy and his warm smile are marks of the men and women who built the foundation of Islam in this corner of the African continent.



Muslim CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Society looks for inspiration to those who produce something unique, something different.

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The achievements of these individuals serve as sparks to ignite the aspirations of others. In a world thirsty for leadership, the person who can reach the heights of nobility through service is a sought-after commodity.

In an attempt to recognize those qualities that humanity is desperately seeking, Islamic Focus has embarked on a campaign to recognize the personality who stands out from the crowd. Nominate your choice of the Muslim male Citizen of the Year 2017 and the winner gets R3000 to give to a local charity of his choice.

We're looking for people who made a difference, who left a mark, who went the extra mile. The financial world, education, philanthropy, business, someone who invented a new concept, who made lives easier.

Submit your nomination by 7 February 2018 using this online form:
<http://islamicfocus.co.za/citizen-of-the-year-2017/>

Rules:

1. Open to all males above the age of 21.
2. Must be a resident of the Eastern Cape.
3. Prizes not transferable.
4. Winner will be announced in the first edition of the magazine for 2018.
5. Terms and conditions apply.
6. Judges' decision final and no correspondence will be entered into.



SPECIAL NEEDS

The Muslim community has, through history, been the most progressive with regards to accommodating people with disabilities, from the blind Muathin appointed by the Prophet ﷺ, to the eminent scholars whose disabilities were no handicap to rising to the most prominent positions in society.

SETTING THE TREND

Islam set the trend for dealing equitably with people who have special needs. Umar ibn Abdul-Aziz rahimahullah asked rulers of the provinces to send him the names of all those blind, crippled, or with a chronic illness that prevented them from establishing salah. They sent him their names. He, in turn, ordered that every blind man should have an employee to guide and look after him, and that every two chronically ill persons - those with special needs - be attended by a servant to serve and care for them. (Ibn Al-Jawzi)

The same course was taken by caliph Al-Waleed ibn Abdul-Malik. In 707 CE, he ordered the establishment of

a foundation specialized in looking after them. Doctors and servants, paid fixed wages, were employed in this foundation. He granted a regular allowance to persons with special needs, and made them sufficient enough to not beg others. In addition, he appointed employees to serve all those who were disabled, crippled, or blind. (Ibn Kathir, At-Tabari)

The Prophet ﷺ left Ibn Umm Maktoum radhiallahu anhu twice as his representative in Madinah to lead the prayer, though he was blind. (Ahmad) He was also appointed as a Muazzin of the Prophet ﷺ. (Muslim)

When Muslims would go on

their expeditions, they used to leave those among them who were chronically ill, submit the keys of their doors to them, saying, "We have made it lawful for you to partake of our houses' food". (Ar-Razi)

SPECIAL NEEDS FRIENDLY MASJIDS

Muhsen is a non-profit organization in America that strives to reclaim this Islamic heritage by creating a better understanding of disabilities in our communities and building a better future for these "Special" people of Paradise, where they are welcomed and all their needs are addressed as they are accepted by all.

Muhsen has an initiative which could be adapted for South Africa.

One of their projects is to get Masjids certified to be friendly for people with disabilities. This entails, among other things, that the Masjid has wheelchair accessibility, Khutbas on disabilities, disability awareness events and access to Wudhu and toilet facilities.

On the gold tier, Masjids would have sign language interpreters for selected talks, support groups, braille Qurans, and specialized child care who kids with needs.

The platinum criteria includes having play areas with accessible equipment, classes for children with disabilities using qualified teachers, as well as an automatic door opening facility.

Muhsen's blueprint for Masjids that are being built suggests that they pencil in handicap, accessible parking spaces, wheelchair ramps, doorways, restrooms, etc., as well as

safe and accessible entries and exits (and plans) for emergency situations. This might be ambitious but we are only limited by our self-made limitations.

Muhsen is also currently in the process of creating a specialized Umrah for individuals with disabilities to be lead with a variety of supports to be offered. This will be the first Umrah of its kinds allowing for all the needs of individuals with disabilities to be accommodated so that they can gain the full spiritual experience of this blessed trip of a lifetime.

QURAN IN SIGN LANGUAGE

Other organisations around the world are also accommodating Muslims with special needs. Global Deaf Muslim has a project in place to get the Quran out in American Sign Language (ASL) for the deaf to understand.

Madrassa An-Noor for the Blind has made ground breaking strides in teaching Islamic studies to the blind

In 2014 there were at least 60 writing translations of the Quran, the Quran in at least 5 Braille translations, and at least 40 audio translations of Quran available worldwide but none in sign language to accommodate the deaf.

While blind Muslims are included in Islamic societies and get full access to Quran through oral in older times and Braille in modern times, deaf Muslims are possibly the final group that has not received full access to the teachings of Islam.

In South Africa, Madrassa An-Noor for the Blind has made ground breaking strides in teaching Islamic studies to the blind and those with eyesight deficiencies for the last three decades. Talking Books and Islamic textbooks in braille were used as a medium to teach the basics up to the higher level Islamic studies including Qiraat.

The Muslim community is slowly bringing back the original ethos of having a space for everyone within all its structures.

WEB GUIDE



Send us your suggestion for sites we can review and include on our lists info@islamicfocus.co.za

As the internet grows in leaps and bounds, we bring to you some spaces in it which we found of benefit and which can help us better ourselves:

Institution: Darul Uloom Nu'maniyyah

Situated in Chatsworth Unit 10, Durban, South Africa. Offers Hifz, Dawah and Aalim classes
 ▶ www.darululoomnumaniyyah.org

Institution: Jami'ah al-'Uloom al-Islamiyyah

Offering Islamic studies in Johannesburg, South Africa.
 ▶ www.jamiah.co.za
 Also offers a range of online courses:
 ▶ www.jamiahonline.co.za/courses

Resources: Mahajjah Institute

Range of academic articles, books and media refuting Shiasm
 ▶ www.mahajjah.com

Resources: Hadith Answers

Invaluable resource for checking on authenticity of hadith. The site that attends to queries that pertain to Hadith. Questions are either answered or checked by Moulana Haroon Abasoomar or by his son, Moulana Muhammad Abasoomar a Hadith specialist.
 ▶ www.hadithanswers.com

Ulama: Moulana Naeem Motala

Articles, advices and more
 ▶ www.veiledgems.com/

Organisation:

National Muslim Prison Board SA

Rendering Spiritual Care to inmates and advancing the relationship between Inmates and the Department of Correctional Services
 ▶ www.nmpb.org.za

Organisation: Muhsen

Muhsen is a non – profit umbrella organization serving the U.S. community to establish a more inclusive “Special Friendly” environment for our Brothers & Sisters of all Disabilities
 ▶ www.muhsen.org

Masjid: Masjid us Saliheen,

Sherwood, Durban, South Africa
 ▶ www.saliheen.co.za

Masjid: Masjidul Furqan, Houghton

Houghton Muslim Association
 ▶ www.hma.org.za

The ever changing nature of the internet means that while we strive to bring you Shariah compliant sites, we cannot guarantee everything on every site. When in doubt, consult your local scholar.

SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES

The solution for much of the ills of society lies with what is aptly termed the Golden Rule. This maxim is beautifully encapsulated in the teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ when he said: "Whoever wishes to be saved from the fire (of Hell) and enter the garden (of Paradise) ... should treat people as he wishes to be treated by them."

Few prescriptions can match this simple formula in its power to make a person think before interacting with others.

ORPHANS

When it is dealing with those less fortunate such as orphans, the Quran gives a guardian food for thought by encouraging him to put himself in the deceased's shoes: "...And those who are concerned about the welfare of their own children after their death, should have fear of God [Treat other people's orphans justly]..." (Quran 4:8-9)

CHARITY

Giving charity is sometimes taken as a form of refuse removal with our unsavoury scraps being transferred to the poor. The Quran asks us to "Spend of the good things that you have earned... and do not even think of spending [in charity] worthless things that you yourselves would be reluctant to accept." (2:267)

TRADE

Trade and commerce is no different. Conduct your business in the way in which you would want to be treated. It is unfair to exact every last bit of rights as a consumer, and then be unyielding as a trader or service provider. "Destruction to those... who, when they have to receive by measure from men,

they demand exact full measure, but when they have to give by measure or weight to men, give less than due." (Quran 83: 1-4)

Pause a moment before doing anything in relation to someone else. Use the brain power for which we set much pride. And only go ahead if you would be pleased to be on the receiving end of your own actions. Perfect faith in Allah is linked to wishing well for others. "The servant (man) does not reach the reality of faith until he loves for others what he loves for himself," in the words of the Prophet ﷺ. There needs to be a general return to this universal principle.

The concept of reciprocity is a simple rule which even children understand. Human nature is such that, when a good turn is done to one, we in turn feel obliged to return that kindness. Thus a cycle of mutual help and resultant well-being comes into existence.

Man's brutality towards the weaker members of the human race stems from the fact that tyrants feel

insulated from any retaliation. Their impunity has its roots in the belief that no one will be able to deal with them as they are dealing with others.

Perfect faith in God is linked to wishing well for others. "The servant (man) does not reach the reality of faith until he loves for others what he loves for himself," in the words of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

There needs to be a general return to this universal principle. In its application lies the way towards eradicating many of the unsavoury aspects of society. Concern about doing your best for others is the time-honoured method of solving the mental and psychological disorders that beset a society where concern centres on the self.



EVENTS

Local events not to be missed!

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“The one who looks after a widow or a poor person is like a Mujahid (warrior) who fights for Allah’s Cause, or like him who performs prayers all the night and fasts all the day.”
[Tirmidhi]

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said “Spend, O Son
of Adam, and I shall
spend on you!”***

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